

## Message Text

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64

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 IO-13 ACDA-19 DODE-00 EB-11 OMB-01

RSR-01 /153 W

----- 028815

R 071915Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8373

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 4558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MIU, NATO, MCAP

TSUBJECT: TROOP CUTS AND BURDEN-SHARING; U.S.-EUROPEAN  
DIALOGUE

REF: A) BRUSSELS 4491 B) STATE 151738

1. DURING CALL ON VAN ELSLANDE (REFTEL A) AFTER BRINGING TO HIS  
ATTENTION THE DEFEAT IN THE HOUSE OF TROOP CUT PROPOSALS (REFTEL  
B), I WENT ON TO RE-EMPHASIZE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING A  
BETTER BALANCE IN BURDEN-SHARING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. NOTING THE  
DIFFICULTIES STILL AHEAD IN OBTAINING A SENATE VOTE AGAINST  
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TROOP CUTS AND THE STRESS IN THE HOUSE DEBATE ON OUR BOP

MILITARY ACCOUNT DEFICIT WITH EUROPE, I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BELGIAN EFFORTS TO FOCUS ATTENTION IN NATO ON THE ISSUE OF BURDEN-SHARING AND URGED THAT GOB CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROMOTE REMEDIAL MEASURES. VAN ELSLANDE REPLIED IN GENERAL, BUT SYMPATHETIC TERMS TO THE EFFECT THAT BELGIUM WOULD CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO FIND A SOLUTION. HE SHOWED NO SIGN OF RETREATING FROM FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE EVIDENCED WHEN AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM ON JULY 12 (BRUSSELS 3918).

2. I ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE COPENHAGEN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, PARTICULARLY WHAT ISSUES VAN ELSLANDE MIGHT SEE ARISING IN CARRYING OUT THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THAT SESSION, AND HIS ESTIMATE OF WHEN THE EUROPEANS MIGHT BE READY TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES. VAN ELSLANDE COMMENTED THAT THE RESULTS AT COPENHAGEN REPRESENTED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN COMPARISON WITH THE PREVIOUS LUXEMBOURG MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ALTHOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS HE WOULD HAVE LIKED. AT THE NEXT MINISTERIAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 10, HE FORESAW THAT THE MINISTERS WOULD CONSIDER THE WAYS IN WHICH A EUROPEAN IDENTITY COULD BE DEFINED REGARDING MAJOR TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST AND AT "THEIR OCTOBER MEETING" HE ANTICIPATED THEIR AGREEING ON THE MAIN LINES OF EUROPEAN POSITIONS ON SUCH TOPICS. IF THE NINE ARE ABLE TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE FRENCH, HE CONSIDERED IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN TALKS WITH THE U.S. AT ANY TIME AFTER THE OCTOBER MEETING. COMMENT: NO DATE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SET AS YET FOR AN OCTOBER POLITICAL CONSULTATION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ALTHOUGH THE BELGIANS MAY POSSIBLY EXPECT SUCH CONSULTATIONS ON THE MARGINS OF THE OCTOBER 15-16 EEC COUNCIL MEETING.  
BOOCHEVER

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## Message Attributes

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